

THE CONSPICUOUS OFFENDER.

Commissioner Lederle should proceed against the Manhattan Elevated Railway Company and compel it to abate its smoke nuisance.

He should do this not because of the past management of the road, its refusal to furnish sufficient trains and consequent overcrowding of passengers, but for pertinent, just and valid reasons.

All other smoke producers at least discharge their soot-laden volumes aloft into the upper air, where it is dispersed and partly absorbed, but the belching chimneys of the "L" road are near the surface, in the narrow streets, under the noses and lungs of residents and workers. Their soot clouds are a nuisance not merely to the hundreds of thousands of passengers on the trains, but to other hundreds of thousands at the windows above, and still again to the hundreds of thousands of shopkeepers and shoppers on the streets below.

No other smoke producer in New York does so much damage and injury to so many people as this one franchise corporation, and its further infliction of loss and annoyance should not be tolerated. After its case has been disposed of a few of the next conspicuous offenders—including the coal railroad ferries—should be taken in hand. The situation, which is rapidly growing worse, is already intolerable.

The Unanswered Question.—Police Capt. Feedy is the latest addition to the long and illustrious line of officials who are unable to answer The World's standing question "Where did you get it?"

REVIEWING REFORM.

In an interview in The World this morning Commissioner Grout points out and enumerates the leading reforms, great and small, accomplished in municipal matters by the new administration.

Their long and creditable. It includes reform in the awarding of franchises, in the awarding of contracts, especially the paving contracts; in the adjustment of salaries and duties, in the purchase of supplies, the methods of payment and the personal relations between officials and the public.

It is not out of place to add by way of comment that the public has full confidence in the integrity and good intentions of the new administration. The difference in character between it and its predecessor is vast and vital and is making itself felt every day. But—

The one conspicuous reform, to which the administration was pledged and which the public had a right to expect would be the first, is the reform of the Police Department. It would be idle to pretend that in this department the net results achieved thus far are satisfactory.

The Right Uses of Wealth.—Mr. John W. Gates has never posed as a philanthropist, but his plan of a Rural Home for Boys is as attractive as it is commendable. Mr. Gates was once a boy himself.

LAW ON LONG ISLAND.

At Good Ground, L. I., two young married men, conspicuous for their attentions to a girl of seventeen, take the girl away from home for a night's carouse. The girl does not return home, and four days later her dead body and that of one of her companions are found floating in the water of the bay; the second young man has disappeared.

With all these circumstances pointing to a double murder the Long Island Coroner shows that he is of the same class as his fellow-officials in Greater New York. He refuses to call a jury, he refuses to examine the bodies, he neglects to look for the missing man, declares that the reporters may find him and decides that it is a case of "accident." He allows the bodies to be buried at the convenience of the respective families.

It subsequently appears that there had been a serious quarrel between the two men, ending in a fight in which the drowned man had come off the winner.

The State of New York cannot allow so suspicious a tragedy to go uninvestigated, nor can it allow the dereliction of duty of the Coroner to pass unnoticed.

IN DARKEST ILLINOIS.

The persecution of the colored people of Saline County, Illinois, by their white neighbors cannot hope to escape, and it should not escape, public reprobation. At a time when the advocates of peace and order in Congress and out, North and South, Democrat and Republican alike, are striving to remove the reproach of lynch law from the record of the country this exceptional, though not unprecedented, outrage comes to encourage and justify the lynchers and to furnish their defenders with a new and potent argument.

Lynching in the Southern States is always the lawless punishment for crime, and usually for the most odious form of crime, but in the Republican County of Saline, in the Northern State of Illinois, negroes have been driven out, their property has been destroyed, their schools broken up, their churches wrecked and all the rights of manhood denied them, not because they were criminals or dangerous, but for the very opposite reason that they were religious, educated, decent and law-abiding. Their sole offense was the establishment of a normal school and industrial institute which attracted other negroes to the county.

MRS. KURTZ'S OBESITY CURE.

The painful experience of Mrs. J. Kurtz, of Boston, in attempting to get rid of superfluous adipose should serve as a warning to the obese who aspire to be other than as nature made them.

Mrs. Kurtz is very, very fat. Her rotundity of person is such as would make her a belle of acknowledged pre-eminence in Oriental lands; in Boston they prefer the pale, intellectual kind, and the unhappy lady sought by fasting to conform her physique to the proper slender demerit. For twenty-one days she went without food. Her too, too solid flesh melted away almost visibly, and her delight was great, even greater than the attendant pangs of hunger. Thinking her purpose accomplished at least in part, Mrs. Kurtz began to eat again, and after a week of her former diet she is fatter than before. What was done is undone, and her return to adiposity is accompanied by the sad reflection that her enforced abstinence was worse than for naught. A three weeks' strenuous denial of the pleasures of the palate and nothing to show for it but added pounds of superfluous and hateful flesh!

Borne are born fat, some acquire fatness; but none ever gets rid of it except at a price all too great for the benefit derived.

The Funny Side of Life.

JOKES OF OUR OWN

A QUESTION OF FEET.
Chicago girls declare their feet are smaller than New Yorkers. If we believe this, and believe our comic paper talkers, We'd best enlarge old Gotham's streets to accommodate our walkers.

AN EXPENSIVE TRIP.
"It costs a lot to go to the country in the summer?"
"You bet it does. My Suburban trip Saturday cost me just \$3.61."

MURKY.
"When winter comes I suppose our churches will be burning soft coal, too?"
"Holy smoke!"

APPROPRIATE.
"I'd like to embroider some sentimental motto on this pocketbook I'm making for Mr. Van Hook."
"What's the matter with 'You'll Find No Change in Me'?"

NOT SO HOLY.
"They call the new Captain of the Oak street station the 'Holy Terror.'"
"Well, most of the bunch they've had in that precinct heretofore were terrorists of the other sort."

BORROWED JOKES.

OSTENTATION.
"Yes," said the woman with sharp eyes, "those people who moved in next door are inclined to make an ostentatious display of their wealth."

"In what way?"
"They go into the corner grocery and order beefsteak in a loud tone of voice," Washington Star.

A BARGAIN.
"Where in the world did she ever get that ugly, little, lopsided husband of hers?"
"That's one of her finds."

"One of her finds?"
"Why, yes. Didn't you know she was a bargain fiend?"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A BRAVE FIGHT.
"What possible comfort can you take," asked his wife, "in sitting on the pier and fishing all day for half a dozen little ring perch?"
"I have the comfort of knowing," replied Mr. Kydoodle, sternly, "that I am standing out against the infamous East Trust!"—Chicago Tribune.

SOMEBODIES.

ALFONSO XIII.—of Spain disapproves of bull-fights, and prefers horse racing.

COLE, HENRY—of Denver, tried recently to turn his \$100,000 estate into cash and give it to the poor, but his wife, who owned half of it, prevented his doing so.

DE CSETE, PETER—of Hungary, said to be the largest tobacco grower in the world, is in New York.

DOWIE, J. A.—head of the Dowdellies, wants to raise enough money to buy Jerusalem and to take his people there to await the second coming of the Messiah.

EMPRESS OF GERMANY—has for a bodyguard twenty of the tallest men in the Imperial Guard.

GARDINER, JOHN—of Norwalk, O., is the oldest active banker in that State and one of the oldest in the country. He is eighty-six and has spent sixty-four years in the banking business.

LOUBET, PRESIDENT—of France, gave \$20,000 for local charity during his Russian visit.

STONE, MISS ELLIEN—has won a new niche in the Temple of Fame. Her adventures with the bad, bold brigands now form the theme of a melodrama. If the play runs as successful as did her capture it will be a money-maker.

ZOLA, EMILE—is in Jerusalem, collecting material for a new book.

ELSIE'S APPETITE.

When down to luncheon Elsie sits With Harold, Guy or Percy, She orders all the choicest bits, Without one sign of mercy.

She fancies grouse or, haply, quail When each is out of season, Forgetting quite that these entail Expense beyond all reason.

But when she's been to do the shops Her appetite is duller, For, lunching then alone, she stops At coffee and a cruller. —Arthur Crawford in Smart Set.

TIMELY LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

Inviting Accidents.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
The Brighton Beach road, Brooklyn, has taken off its station agents below Franklin avenue. No bars are let down any more when trains cross thoroughfares. There is no warning flag for drivers of vehicles. Isn't there some law covering this case? Nothing will be done, of course, until a big accident occurs at one of these crossings and some lives are lost. FLATBUSH.

Satiric Advice.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
In the case of Henry S. Wade, who complains he is waked at 5 A. M. by a howling baby next door, let me prescribe the following remedy: Get up at 4 in the morning, converse loudly (even if

you have to do it to the wall), get some "Soothing Syrup Companies" interested in the well-being of the infant, and cough loudly at night. This ought to quiet the people across the airshaft. C. J.

A Haughty Express Company.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
The next time I have any expressing to do from New York to Brooklyn I shall hire a handcart man. Two days ago several boxes of mine were turned over to an express company that does business in the sister cities and they have not reached me yet. The company gives no satisfaction, seeming to think it is doing me a favor to carry my goods at all—at 50 cents a hundred, too, remind you. This express company, by

the way, carries its freight in a B. R. T. box-car. Where did the B. R. T. ever get a franchise to carry freight or run freight cars in the streets of Brooklyn? JOHN D. G.

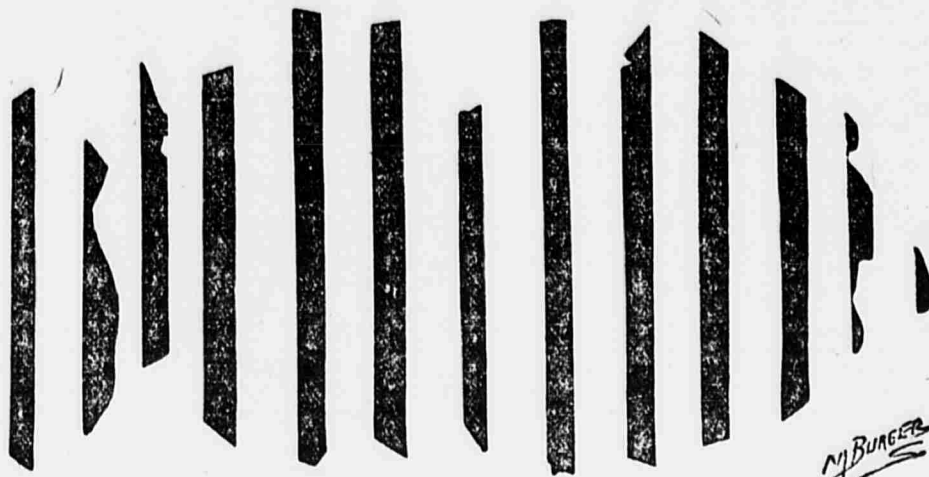
The Irish Flag.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
In answer to the query as to whether blue was ever the color of the Irish flag, I wish to say that in all the best works on Irish history which I have perused there has been no mention of any national flag other than the present one of green, which was first used less than one hundred years ago. In ancient times the clans of Erin had their own standards or banners, which served them as flags. And as the monarch of all Ireland was always the head of one of the

great families, the banner of his clan was used as the national standard of flag. For many centuries the chief of the clan O'Neill was elected King of Ireland, and their banner was the nation's standard. This was also the case in Scotland, and explains the absence of a Scotch flag. The Stuart was the last ruling clan in Scotland, and their banner served as the Scotch emblem. JAMES C. MUIRE.

Scores Pugnacious Girl.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
I think "Sweet Eighteen," who hit a man because he spoke to her, has a vicious disposition, and I attribute the attentions of the young man to his inexperience. A young woman can always find a more ladylike way than resorting to blows. I think she represents Carris Nationalism in the bud. GOLDHEART JIM.

ODDITY CORNER.

THIS IS A NEW STYLE OF PORTRAIT-MAKING.



Cut out these strips of black and join them together so that they will form a silhouette of Sena for Chauncey M. Depew.

A BRAIN TWISTER.

THE CHRISTIANS AND TURKS.
Fifteen Christians and fifteen Turks being at sea in the same vessel, a dreadful storm came on which obliged them to throw all their merchandise overboard; this, however, not being sufficient to lighten the ship, the captain informed them that there was no possibility of its being saved unless half the passengers were thrown overboard also. Having therefore caused them all to arrange themselves in a row, by counting from nine to nine, and throwing every ninth person into the sea, beginning again at the first of the row when it had been counted to the end, it was found that after fifteen persons had been thrown overboard the fifteen Christians remained. How did the captain arrange those thirty persons so as to save the Christians?

ORIGINAL KIDS.

Here are some answers to questions in examination papers, says the Chicago Daily News: What religion had the Britons? A strange and terrible one called religion of the dukes. What caused the death of Cleopatra? It was because she bit a wasp. What can you tell of Johnson? He survived Shakespeare in some respects. What is the spinal column? Bones running all over the body. It is considered dangerous. Name a domestic animal useful for clothing and describe its habits. Ox. Doesn't have any habits, because it lives in a stable. What is the function of the gastric juice? To digest the stomach.

THE FIRST DOCTOR.

The title of "doctor" was invented in the twelfth century and conferred for the first time upon Imerius, of the University of Bologna, states the Metropolitan Magazine. The first "doctor of medicine" was Guilelmo Gordenio, who received the honor from the college of Aost, also in Italy, in 1220.

THE PREVARICATORS.

And the Benefit One Man Gained from Their Society.

It was in the smoking car. Three of the men in the double seat knew each other. The fourth man was a stranger. He was glad.

"Yes," No. 1 was saying, "I bought a pair of crash trousers back in 1886. You know crash stretches instead of shrinking when it is washed. Well, the first time those trousers were washed they came out of the laundry twelve inches too long. My wife cut off the extra twelve inches at the end of each leg and hemmed them into a pair of dish towels. The next time the trousers went to the wash, of course they stretched again, and another pair of twelve-inch dish towels was gleaned from them. Well, gentlemen, to make a long story short, those trousers are still the proper length and as good as new; but in six years they have yielded thirty-seven pairs of dish towels and—"

"That reminds me," said No. 2, "of a hen we have up at my farm at Pompton, N. J. She lays every day and she's one of the finest hens ever seen in Passaic County. Well, one day my little boy, in a spirit of mischief, tried to get her drunk. He soaked a lot of bread in whiskey and fed it to her. Now, you can believe it or not, as you like, but the eggs for a week after that contained so much whiskey that all you had to do was to break one of them in order to have a first-rate egg nog. I sold her to the local saloon man for \$150 and he feeds her regularly on whiskey now, and each egg she lays now is worth the price of a 15-cent drink instead of 17 cents a dozen, and—"

"Yes, animals are clever," chimed in No. 3. "Why, I've got a bird dog, Bose is his name, and my boy Fritz went out fishing the other day and took Bose along in the boat. Well, pretty soon Fritz pulled in a big three-pound bass, and what should that wise dog do but begin 'pointing' that fish, just as if it had been a bird. When the fish was cleaned we found a half-pound quail in him. The bird must have fallen in the water and the bass swallowed him. Bose's scent was so keen he smelled the game bird clear inside the fish, and of course—"

"Excuse me," broke in No. 4, "this is my station; but before I get out I want to thank you gentlemen. You have made a certain Scripture text very clear to me which had formerly been a puzzle. The text is: 'Ananias, stand forth!' I never knew what it meant till I heard you men talk. Now I see that Ananias was to stand fourth, so that you, three men could stand One, Two and Three in the ranks of famous liars. Good day, gentlemen!" A. P. TERHUNE.

BEWARE OF TOO MUCH BATHING.

Warm spring days make bathing peculiarly seductive. But, beware! The London Lancet expresses the danger of too frequent bathing in these moving terms: "Too much bathing is harmful, as it tends to maceration of the superficial part of the epidermis, and occasions probably too rapid a proliferation of the cells of the malpighian layer."

FIRE HELMETS ARE ALL RIGHT.

Proof was given at a fire in Liverpool recently of the value of the newly invented smoke helmets. The volumes of smoke were so dense that the firemen were beaten back, but, donning the smoke helmets, into which air is pumped as in a diving equipment, they descended into the smoke, bearing the hose in one hand and electric flambeaux in the other, and soon succeeded in putting out the flames.

WONDERFUL SILVER WORK.



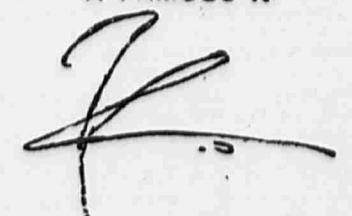
This remarkable piece of repousse work in silver was presented by the Czar of Russia to President Loubet of France on the occasion of the latter's visit to St. Petersburg. It is a samovar, representing a typical Russian warrior with a mediaeval helmet on.

DEVIL DANCER'S HEAD.



The devil dancers of Ceylon wear these peculiar masks in their religious rites.

A FAMOUS N.



This signature of Napoleon—an N made by intersecting lines slashing the paper—was traced at Erfurt on Oct. 13, 1813. The Emperor, who at first signed all his letters Napoleon, abridged little by little his signature, which became in turn Napol, and Nap, and then simple N.

PRAYED BEFORE DECIDING.

The other day, when a jury in a murder trial in the Louisville courts had retired to their room, the foreman said: "Gentlemen, this is a serious case we have to decide. A man's life may be forfeited by our decision. How many Christians are among us?" Nine men raised their hands. "Well one of you pray?" asked the foreman. One of the oldest jurors said he would do his best. All knelt, and a most earnest and impressive prayer was offered. Balloting was then begun. Several jurors were in favor of a life sentence and others for terms as short as eight years. The jury finally agreed on eighteen years.